

NEWS: STARBUCKS AND DIVERSITY



VALLEY LIFE: INFINITY WAR

Campus finds issues with shooter drill

Valley College holds four active-shooter drills to test campus.

JESSICA AVA LANGE
STAFF WRITER

Valley College recently conducted four active-shooter drills to help prepare the campus for a possible emergency and they learned valuable lessons along the way.

The drills, conducted between April 23-26, lasted for 15 minutes and students were warned for weeks about the drill through a series of emails. Throughout the drill, campus officials learned that classroom doors should remain locked but open so they can easily be shut in case of an emergency. In addition, the campus now encourages students to log in to the LAVC portal and update their personal information in order to receive emergency alerts.

In addition to the warnings, administrators prepared an Active Shooter Lockdown document that provided instruction in the event of a campus shooting. Among other items, it instructs those caught on campus during a shooting "not to approach the shooter," but to consider three options: "get away, hide in a safe place or lock down in a room." The instructions also recommended, if fleeing the campus, to leave belongings behind, except for your cell phone and to "turn off the ringer."

Valley has been planning these drills over the last year due to the rash of shootings nationwide, including the one at Stoneman Douglass High School in Florida on Feb. 14 where 17 people died.

"The potential for a school shooting exists on every campus throughout the United States. Although the possession of firearms on or around the campus is prohibited, previous local and national shootings dictate the importance and need for a response plan," read the opening lines of the Active Shooter document.

"Overall it went really well and I'm impressed with people being proactive," said Song. "Do whatever you can to prepare yourself. Lock the door, hide under desks, lie down, and turn off the lights."

Valley also featured a one-time drill on Wednesday in which the sheriff's department stormed the administration building, firing off blanks and emergency medical personnel treated the injured actors while other victims laid down with signs that said dead.

"At first we were concerned about the sound but it went really well and we had no complaints," Song said.

Each classroom is outfitted with an emergency procedures manual, usually found near the door. The procedures explain how to handle a number of emergencies, which includes an active shooter.

In the event of an active shooter, take action and protect yourself by hiding in a safe place and lock down in a room. "If you hear what might be gunshots assume that there is a shooter on campus until Sheriff's personnel, police, or campus administration tells

see *Drills* p.2

Student march into president's office

Students from the Mosaic Center join forces ambushing Valley's president with demands for improvements.

SOLOMON SMITH
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

President Erika Endrijonas had a long day last week when students streamed through her office in a coordinated effort to express their displeasure with what they felt was a lack of support for programs in the Mosaic Center.

Students from the Dream Resource Center and Black Scholars program organized a walk-in using Endrijonas' office hours. The effort was part of a larger campaign to alert administrators of the lack of financial support for many of the multi-cultural programs.

"I think that we would like to feel that you are our first advocate for this space and for these people,"

- Anonymous Student

During the meeting students presented letters signed by 65 students in the ASL program listing their grievances. The letters, addressed to the president and committee members from the LACCD, asked for larger office spaces, fund-



PROTESTS- Students march in the Administration and Career Advancement Building toward the office of President Erika Endrijonas to plead their case for more support for DACA and African-American students on campus.

ing for staff members, and better access to the funds already allocated.

"Please give our undocumented and black students all the help they need," the letter reads. "If they are successful in their future then we are ALL successful."

In a meeting with LACCD board members during spring

break, and a one-on-one meeting with the president three weeks ago, students from the Black Scholars and the Dream Resource Center first made their requests, but felt their voices were not being heard.

"I think that we would like to feel that you are our first advocate for this space and for these people," said a female

student who wished to remain anonymous.

Another core issue is that programs are funded by the Student Equity Fund, a source of income that is shared by several different programs throughout the campus. Sharing the income limits resources available, and the inability for counselors to draw

the funds when needed has exasperated the problem.

President Endrijonas and her staff responded by finding a grant through the Los Angeles Valley Foundation. The grant, if it is approved, could provide up to \$250,000 in funds to the two programs which could turn part-time counselors into full-

see *Walk-ins* p.2



VALLEY STAR | MIA GUZMAN

VOTING- Last year students voted on campus and online for the candidates for the Associated Student Union.

No opposition in ASU elections

ASU candidates for office run unopposed in this spring election.

SARAH BENNETT
STAFF WRITER

The votes for the new ASU officials will be announced Thursday afternoon and the likely officers are Oscar Juvera for President, and Lucine Kazanchian for Vice President.

Running unopposed in this year's election created an opportunity for Juvera to make his agenda a reality.

Each candidate must create a candidacy statement prior to officially running for a position. Juvera's statement consisted of extensive plans to create a safer and more open campus. In a detailed statement that he plans to put into action if elected, he lists a main goal of student's rights.

"Running unopposed created an advantage in winning," said Juvera. "If the students want to protest, I will protest with them."

Along with advocating for undocumented students, Juvera is also striving to create a more consistent smoke

free campus, unlock all-gender restrooms, encourage the sheriff's department to patrol potential harassment zones on campus and create a more connected campus by establishing more consistent WiFi connections.

"As a STEM major, I do a lot of research," said Juvera. "The internet connection around campus is very inconsistent, I want to change that."

Even though the candidates ran unopposed for this year's election, students that voted still had the option not to vote in the candidate running for office. Due to this option, the candidates are left in limbo until Thursday, May 3 when the results are officially announced. If a no vote was to out number a candidate, the newly elected officials would hold an election within their committee to vote on someone to fill the position.

"If the student body decides not to vote for an opposed candidate, the candidate is not allowed to office," said Evelyn

Pichardo, the Secretary of Student Life for the ASU office.

Juvera is not the only newly elected officer on the ASU board. Lucine Kazanchian will be the new Vice President and Rafi Sharafyan will be the new Treasurer. In addition to the officers listed above, the new officers are as follows: Brandon Villareal, Commissioner of Health and Safety, Evelyn Soriano-Commissioner of Social Media, Matthew Carranza-Commissioner of Student Life, Eddie Kaufman-Morrow-Commissioner of Campus and Environmental Affairs, Elijah Rodriguez-Commissioner of Publicity, Kiran Mehr-Commissioner of Political and External Affairs, and Jaison Rodriguez-Commissioner of Fine Arts.

The official announcement of the new ASU elected officials will happen on Thursday in the Skybox conference room at noon.

Some colleges still taking applications

With the deadline for fall applications being overdue, select schools are still open for fall.

KARINA GUTIERREZ
STAFF WRITER

Students who missed the cutoff date to apply to a university still have a chance as certain schools are still accepting applications for fall 2018.

The deadline to submit an application to CSU and UC schools ended last November, some students missed the opportunity to apply. CSU's and certain UC's are receiving application for summer, fall, and spring enrollment.

"I know that you are able to apply for spring semester, but I did not know we are able to apply for fall semester after the deadline," said Adriana Sandoval who plans to transfer to UCLA.

Students have from April to August to decide what school they wish to attend this fall. Schools like Life Pacific, Azusa Pacific, and Marymount California University have a deadline from May to July. Cal State Fullerton is accepting applications for Fall 2018 to those who choose to major in sociology.

However, there are some caveats. Depending on your major, specific CSU campuses will not accept your application. For example, CSUN will not be accepting applications for students who are majoring in accounting, biology, communication, and psychology.

With California schools being highly impacted and competitive, students can also

apply to out-of state universities. Schools like Hawaii Pacific University, Grand Canyon University, Utah State University, and Washington State University are just a few of the schools accepting applications for Fall 2018.

CSU students interest-

THE ISSUE

College Deadlines

237 colleges nation-wide are still taking applications for new students.

ed in attending in the winter 2019 the application process starts June 1 to June 30, 2018. For those interested in Spring 2019, registration opens Aug. 1 through Aug. 31, 2018.

Even though all UC campuses are no longer taking fall 2018 applications, veterans and students enrolled in programs such as TAG, EOP, and Academic Re-Entry might have an opportunity to apply depending on the campus.

For more information students can go to the Career/Transfer Center open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

NEWS

Black-Scholars gives artists a platform

Energetic music and an open atmosphere foster a welcoming environment for students new to the open-mic experience.

SOLOMON SMITH
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Held in the Fireside Room in the Campus Center and organized by Black Scholars counselor Elliot Coney, students from all intersections came to share their voices and art.

The performances were eclectic—poetry, music, spoken word, singing and stream-of-consciousness readings were just some of the ways students expressed themselves. Coney, who also hosted, was excited about the prospect of using the open mic to reach out to students about the Black Scholars Program.

“I want the students to feel like they have someone that looks like them and feel like they are represented,” Coney said.

Performances lasted a few minutes with breaks announced by Coney, to give students an opportunity to mingle and eat. Some students from the speech team performed their award-winning

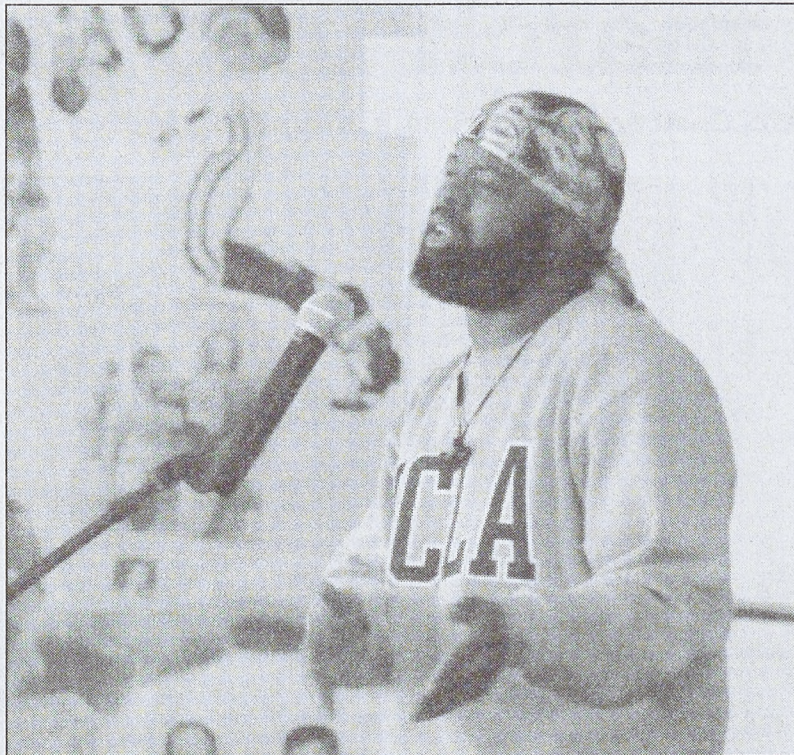
pieces.

Professor of African American studies, Kendra Morris was a strong influence on some performers. Many of these students have developed an interest in the history and study of African American cul-

“I want the students to feel like they have someone that looks like them and feel like they are represented,” Coney.

ture through contact with her classes.

One performer in particular, Dion Skinner, is a former student of Morris who was inspired by her to major in African-American studies. Skinner performed an unnamed piece he has competed with before and has won several competitions with his poetry. Skinner is a former Monarch who now studies African American studies at UCLA and is an English tutor at Valley.



VALLEY STAR | SEBASTIAN MINO-BUCHELI
SPEECH- Former Monarch Dion Skinner performs his poetry.

“I won the MLK thirtieth annual oral competition with that one,” say Skinner. “I’m a former student, I used to be a student of Ms. Morris and she’s the reason I went to UCLA.”

Speech team member

Ronnel Evans, a Phi Rho Pi National gold winner, displayed his skill through a piece which used parts of other writers’ work woven into a narrative about his mother and black women.

Borrowing from different authors, he used the most relevant pieces of poetry, music and art to tell his story. The narrative was put together and performed with thoughts of his cousin and making a statement about the lives (and disposability) of black lives.

Andre Broadway, a Valley student looking to get his GED and enroll in his first college class at the end of April, sang a song that he wrote called “Alphabet” in which he goes through the alphabet in a dedication to a woman.

Finishing the show out was a monologue by Sarahi Flores, a three-time gold medalist and veteran of the speech team. Flores delivered an ironic and defiantly voiced speech designed to debunk the pejorative of “anchor babies.”

Coney closed out the show commenting on his excitement after the last successful poetry slam.

“I was talking about this all week after students at Valley are dope,” said Coney.

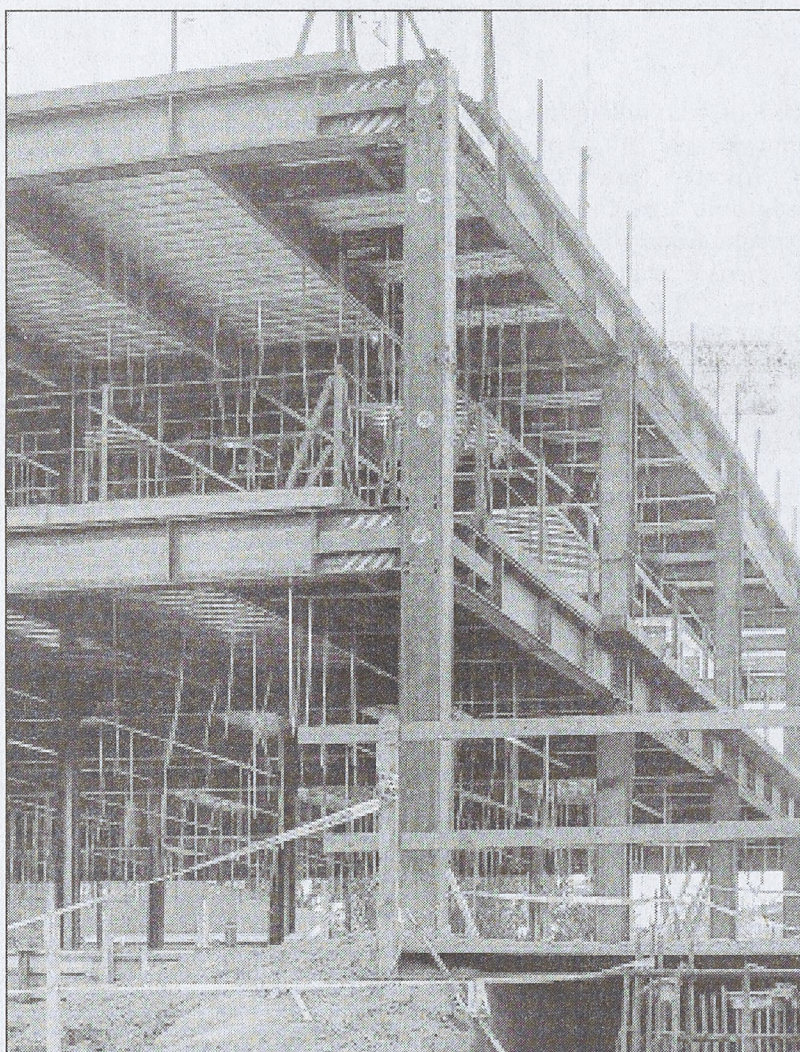
‘Drills’

you otherwise,” according to the manual. In addition, students and faculty are notified of any emergency through Blackboard Connect, the campus emergency notification system that will send emergency alert notifications via email, voice, and text message.

In addition to the drills and updating its active-shooter policy, Valley has increased its security patrol, although they will not disclose how many officers are on campus at any given time.

“We’ve added some heightened awareness to our security officers who continue to be vigilant on campus,” Song said. “It takes a whole campus community to be able to ensure security on campus.”

The campus website also features a video detailing the active shooter emergency procedures. <http://www.lavc.edu/>



VALLEY STAR | MIA GUZMAN
DELAYED-Students prepare to graduate and the VACC building is still not ready to house the next wave of Monarchs.

Valley has VACC problems

Significant construction issues have slowed progress for one of Valley College’s new buildings.

GABRIEL ARIZON
STAFF WRITER

The Valley Academic and Cultural Center faces a delay of two years due to poor planning and weather delays.

Originally due to open in August 2018, the facility has faced significant construction issues, pushing the completion date to 2020. Two different architecture firms, Ehrlich Architects and QDG Architects, designed the center at different points of the facility’s planning. This has raised questions on the amount of rebar and steel needed, and about the design of the facility. In addition, heavy rainfall in the past couple of years led to progress on the project stagnating.

According to BuildLACCD, progress on the facility is 26 percent complete with an academic occupancy date of June 17, 2019. However, the Build LACCD management team

informed the LAVC Bond Work Group, which oversees campus-wide improvement decisions at the college, that the completion date would be moved to 2020 due to rain delays.

“There’s two bars: one is the move-in date, when you start bringing everything over and moving it in, and then there’s the class start date,” Professor and Department Chair of Media Arts Eric Swelstad said. “The move-in date would be early 2020 and the first semester we would be using it would be fall 2020.” Since 2002, the center has been included in Valley College’s Facilities Master Plan, which outlines the future developments for the school. On Aug. 11, 2016, the Los Angeles Community College District approved the 118,000-square-foot facility with a budget of \$78.5 million. This makes the facil-

ity a part of a \$612 million renovation and building project for Valley to renovate existing buildings and construct new sustainable ones.

Ehrlich Architects did initial design work for the facility in 2010 - when it was originally called the Media Arts and Performing Arts Center - before QDG Architects came in at a later date.

Swelstad, who is the building user group leader, has remained optimistic about the project’s completion, despite the setbacks.

“We thank the taxpayers for their patience and for their diligence in making sure this happens. We’re building this for the students - this is all for them,” he said.

This isn’t the first time has Valley faced construction issues. When the Allied Health and Science Center was opened in September 2008, it faced a myriad of problems.

According to the LA Times, dirty water flowed at emergency eyewash stations, the temperature swung wildly between boiling and frigid, and an imbalance in air pressure created a wind-tunnel effect, causing the simple task of opening and closing doors to require a great deal of strength. On top of the \$48 million it cost to build the center, LACCD had to pay other firms \$3.5 million to fix the issues.

When completed, the two-story facility will feature classrooms, study and rehearsal spaces, a newsroom, a radio station, faculty offices, and four separate theaters. It will also include an Outdoor Amphitheater for outdoor performances and concerts. The center will occupy a large space in the northwestern part of campus, near the Music Building and the Art Building.

‘Walk-ins’

time employees.

Students were appreciative of the president’s efforts but not completely satisfied with the tentative nature of the grant. Many were concerned about the future of the new programs and were worried that a grant is a temporary solution for a long-term problem.

Mosaic Center is an area serving three specific offices: Veterans Services, Mi Comunidad-Dream Center and Black Scholars. Often dreamer students meeting with their counselor are crowded into standing room only. Black Scholars only have Coney’s office with one chair, leaving students sitting on the floor when meeting with him. Each of these counselors are part time serving a fairly large population.

“We’re growing, the space that they provided was adequate at the time but we are growing,” said Matthew Smith a student representing Black Scholars.

The Associate Dean of Student services, Llanet

Martin, is one of the immediate supervisors of the Mosaic Center and had very little to say about the issues brought up by students. According to Martin, no one had ever brought any of these concerns to her attention, and none of the students had ever spoken to her about them. Martin said she has open-door policy and schedules her own meetings, making herself available to students and staff.

The president has stated that she is aware of the various issues that the Mosaic Center has been dealing with but notes that these are the growing pains to be expected from a program only one semester old.

Having met with her the week before, the president expressed that the things the students were asking for take time, but she is aware of the issues and doing her best to address them.

Things don’t necessarily happen from one week to the next week,” said Endrijonas. “It doesn’t mean that the college doesn’t care; it doesn’t mean that I don’t care.”

Starbucks stands tall on racial training

Grabbing a cup of coffee won’t be so easy as Starbucks plans to close for an afternoon in May.



VALLEY STAR | APET SUKIASYAN
TRAINING- Customers line up at the drive-thru early morning for coffee.

SAVANNAH SIMMONS
STAFF WRITER

After backlash from the incident in Philadelphia, Starbucks will temporarily close its doors to teach its employees an important and pressing matter.

Starbucks is shutting down 8,000 company-owned U.S. stores on May 29 to educate its employees on racial bias. This

closure follows the arrest of two black men in Philadelphia who were arrested for suspicion of trespassing. No charges were filed.

The outrage from people all over the country arose because, although they did not purchase anything, these men were simply waiting for a friend and not causing any harm. The reason the cops were called is, so blatantly obvious, that they’re black males. People sit

in Starbucks for hours on end studying, catching up with friends, or working on projects. Who is to say that these men weren’t about to do the same?

“We regret that our practices and training led to the reprehensible outcome at our Philadelphia store,” tweeted Starbucks. “We’re taking immediate action to learn from this and be better.”

With everything happening in the country right now between law enforcement and black men, it is ignorant to think that calling the cops and assuming a pair of black men will just be asked to leave. Black people don’t get asked, they get arrested.

The company CEO, Kevin R. Johnson, did meet with the two men and apologize for how they were treated and is making steps to make the situation right and not let something like this happen again.

“While this is not limited to Starbucks, we’re committed to being part of the solution,”

states Starbucks’ website. “Closing our stores for racial bias training is just one step in a journey that requires dedication from every level of our company and partnerships in our local communities.”

The program is designed to, “address implicit bias, promote conscious inclusion, prevent discrimination and ensure everyone inside a Starbucks store feels safe and welcome.” Their training will have Bryan Stevenson, founder and executive director of The Equal Justice Initiative, who is an expert in confronting racial bias.

“The company’s founding values are based on humanity and inclusion,” said Executive Chairman Howard Schultz. “We will learn from our mistakes and reaffirm our commitment to creating a safe and welcoming environment for every customer.”

Herbalife gets fat off pyramid schemes

Although the products work as advertised, the companies business practices have been not as advertised for many of those stuck with plenty of product.

ERICK LOPEZ
STAFF WRITER

As a consumer the products Herbalife offers work as intended but this does not excuse the shortcomings of the multi-million dollar health company.

Herbalife uses a multi-level marketing tactic, commonly known as a pyramid scheme, a business strategy in which a company persuades a consumer to sell their product. The idea is that the seller convinces the consumer to buy products in bulk and the consumer attempts to repeat the same process with others, thereby creating a pyramid-like network of sellers, with the top making the most money. It has proven to be a profitable venture, as Herbalife earns at least \$4.5 billion annually, according to a list by Network Marketing Central.

Omar Garcia, who was

part of the Herbalife brand as a distributor and coach since leaving college, is confused by the idea that salesman are losing money selling his products.

“When I started the business, I started with no money at all, so I had nothing to lose.” He explains that, thanks to Herbalife, he is able to live a good life with his wife and aid others through the company. Success stories like Garcia’s would make it seem like anyone can make money by selling products.

“Only 11 percent of its ‘distributors’ ever make a dime as salesman..., according to an article by Latin Times writer, Cedar Attanasio, “around three-quarters sign up just so that they can get discounts on Herbalife products.”

The Herbalife products themselves, despite being beneficial, are undeniably expensive. Just a 3.53 oz. bottle of

herbal tea mix costs nearly \$45, compared to buying an assortment of six tea mixes for \$30 from an online store. This is on top of shake mixes, a bottle of “Thermo-Bond” fiber tablets and fiber mixes that cost upwards of \$220 for a non-member. Members of Herbalife and the distributors are able to get these products at a lower price.

“I lost my kids. I lost my peace. I lost my dream,” says Ana C., a former Herbalife distributor for 15 years, in an interview with Facts About Herbalife, “I lost the calm. I lost the happiness.”

Growing concerns about Herbalife’s legal problems have caught the attention of the Federal Trade Commission, pursuing legal action against these companies. While this was more straightforward in the past due to a false advertising case in 1985 against



ILLUSTRATION | COURTESY HERBALIFE

SUPPLEMENTS-Shady business practices have plagued the company.

Herbalife, it is not that simple now. Current federal laws only generalize what constitutes a pyramid scheme, making it difficult to clearly determine whether or not a company is utilizing this practice in their business model.

“Proving an MLM is a pyramid scheme is an arcane legal matter,” Michelle Celarier from

Slate explains, “one clouded by the rhetoric of free-market economics.”

Herbalife’s products work as my improved overall health demonstrates it but be wary attempting to invest in this line of work--the road is rough and there is no guarantee of success.

Deaf actor finds her voice in “A Quiet Place”

John Krasinski’s horror film aimed for accuracy when casting one of its most important roles.

KATHLEEN ZAMORA
STAFF WRITER

Director, co-writer and actor John Krasinski insisted on casting deaf actress Millicent Simmonds in a pivotal role in his new film, “A Quiet Place,” which was released in theaters on April 6.

Krasinski stars alongside his real-life wife, Emily Blunt, as Lee and Evelyn Abbott, parents to three children: Regan (Simmonds), Marcus (Noah Jupe) and Beau (Cade Woodward.) The audience watches as the family of five struggle to keep each other alive in an post-apocalyptic world where aliens have inhabited Earth.

The family must be absolutely silent because these aliens, although blind, have hypersensitive hearing and attack any living being that makes a sudden noise. The film contains almost no verbal dialogue and the family communicates through American

Sign Language (ASL), which the audience reads via subtitles.

However, the sound-hunting aliens are not the only reason the family uses sign language. It is revealed early in the film that Regan is deaf, indicating the importance and how fortunate the Abbott family was of being educated in ASL, even before their lives were at risk.

Quite often, we see able-bodied actors portray characters with disabilities, but because Regan’s deafness is an important part of the narrative, Krasinski pushed for Simmonds to be cast so that her performance would not only bring authenticity to the film, but would open the doorways to deaf actors and actresses.

“We always had a deaf character in the script, but John really pushed for them to hire Millicent,” said screenwriter John Beck, in an interview

with The Hollywood Reporter. “She came to set and taught everyone sign language. It was really amazing and brought an extra depth to the film.”

The crew had an ASL advisor on set to help with communication. According to Krasinski, Simmonds’ input was able to create depth in the film that it would have otherwise lacked without true representation.

In an interview with NowThis News, Simmonds said, “I think it’s important in the deaf community to advocate for and be a representative for this story.”

“A story that might inspire directors and other screenwriters to include more deaf talent and be more creative in the way you use deaf talent,” Simmonds explained. “I think that could be a wonderful thing to see. Not only deaf actors, but other disabled actors as well.”



ILLUSTRATOR | COURTESY PARAMOUNT

SILENCE- “A Quiet Place” strives for authenticity using deaf actors.

Valley hosts third Heal the Bay workshop

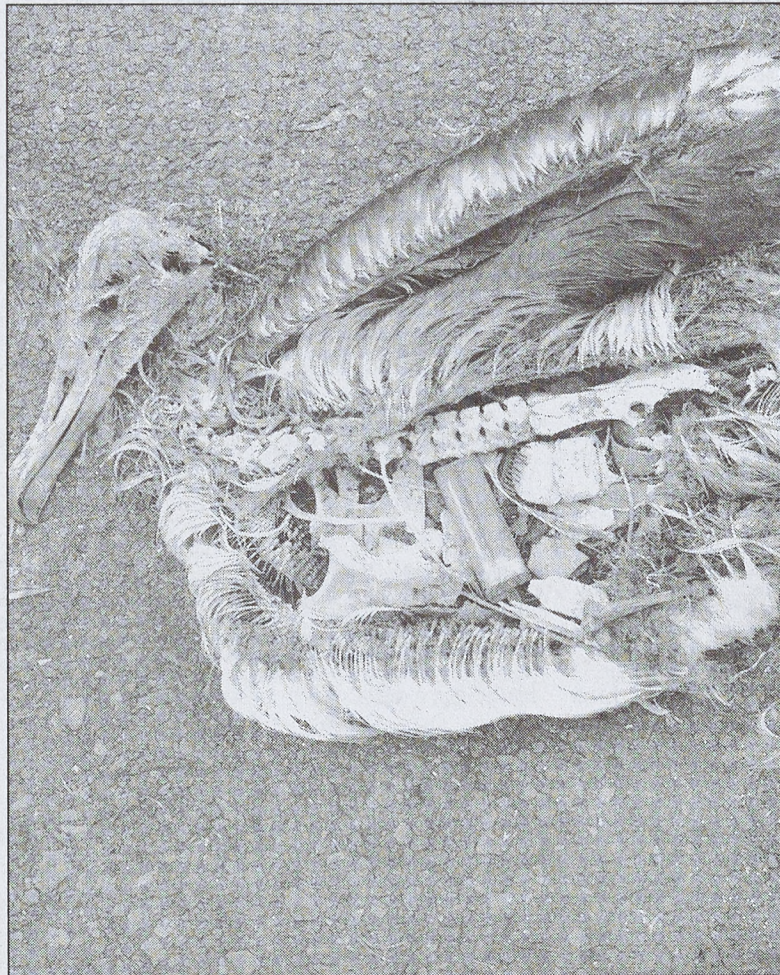


PHOTO | PIXABAY

SUPPORT GROUP- Meetings are every second Saturday of the month.

Heal the Bay is returning to Valley College this may to educate students on pollution prevention.

SARAH BENNETT
STAFF WRITER

The Santa Monica based environmental protection agency, Heal the Bay, will be hosting a workshop in May at Valley College to educate students on environmental protection in the greater Los Angeles area.

This year’s workshop will be held at the Skybox Conference room above the ASU office from 5-6:30p.m. and will be hosted by Jim LaValley, a volunteer education outreach speaker from Heal the Bay, who has hosted Valley’s workshops in the past. The goal of these workshops is to provide necessary information to students about how they can be active in the preservation of the waterways by paying attention to where they throw their trash, and how storm water runoff affects the ocean.

“There is a whole range of things you can do as an indi-

vidual to protect the oceans,” said LaValley, “and even more you can do as a community.”

Many items thrown away end up in rivers and streams ultimately leading to the ocean where they can be eaten by sea animals. Over 100,000 plastic straws have been discovered in the Los Angeles waterways in 2017, according to the Heal the Bay’s Marine debris database.

“It’s now estimated that by 2050, there will be more plastic in the ocean by mass than fish,” according to the World Economic Forum in a quote from the Heal the Bay website.

During the last workshop that was held at Valley, LaValley brought in containers full of pollutants for students to look at and analyze. Additionally, students were able to see images of how plastic bottle caps and other plastic items were ingested by wildlife.

“The caps of soda and water bottles are eaten by birds,” said

Meyrev Revio, the campus and environmental commissioner, “who believe they are food, which cause them to suffocate.”

Heal the Bay is a Santa Monica based company that is dedicated to insuring the public waterways around the greater Los Angeles Area are unpolluted and provide outreach programs for all ages.

Nancy Shrodes, who is the education and outreach manager for the company, hosts multiple volunteer programs monthly where college students can participate in clean up activities and volunteer at the Santa Monica Aquarium.

“It is a very rewarding experience, that requires a large time commitment,” said Shrodes.

The Heal the Bay workshop will be held at the Skybox conference room on May 1 from 5-6:30p.m. To take part in the pledge to go strawless, visit LaSucks.org.

The Valley Star

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Valley College rejoices in cultural festivities

Valley College's Armenian Heritage Day celebrates a nation's culture through music and food for future generations to remember their history.

CESAR MARTINEZ
STAFF WRITER

As time passes along future generations, Valley College dedicated April 25 towards the commemoration of Armenian culture and remembrance for the victims of the Armenian Genocide.

The free two-hour Armenian Heritage Day event was hosted and opened to all at the Student Services Plaza with musical performances and cultural dishes. Through the help of the LAVC Student Equity, Armenian Student Association Club, and the ASU, the event was held in honor of celebrating Armenian culture through a day of jubilation.

"Anyone is welcome on this day of commemoration," said the event's coordinator, Anna Cheshmedzhyan, "because

we must all come together, as humans, to end any future genocides."

Starting with the soft sounds of Hovhannes Maghrikyan's violin, the celebration was greeted with plenty students, faculty, and families. Plates were filled with rice, chicken, salad and an Armenian pastry called gata, as songs were performed by Maghrikyan and singer, Razmik Mansouryan.

The lavender-themed celebration is symbolic in representing hope and peace. Ultimately, the attendees stood in solidarity during a minute of silence in honor of the victims and survivors of the Armenian Genocide.

In spite of some countries ignoring or refusing to recognize the catastrophic instances

of the Armenian Genocide for over 103 years, April 24 is recognized as a day of mourning, marching, and demonstrations in order to spread awareness of the atrocities that occurred.

The celebration focused on remembering and embracing history's impact on the generations that follow through awareness of culture and diversity. In the spirit of spreading truth, many rejoiced in the comfort of unity as others encountered a new perspective from a different culture.

"It is important to pass the history along for future generations," shared Anna. "Not because of hatred for a nation, but as a reminder for our families' past and to not let any genocide happen again.



VALLEY STAR | MIA GUZMAN
Student Services Plaza - Attendees and Monarchs gather for celebration.

IMPORTANT DATES

May 6, 2018

Sunday is the last date to withdraw from a class with a "W".

May 28, 2018

Memorial Day- Campus closed for the holiday.

ON CAMPUS

May 8, 17, and 23

Wellness and Fitness Happy Hour. Nine free fitness classes offered to students, faculty and staff. For more info visit LAVC Student Health Center page.

May 12, 2018

Starting at 7p.m. LAVC Chamber Singers at the Music Recital Hall room 10r.

These features and more can be found in full @ www.thevalleystar.com

May 16, 2018

LAVC Applied Student/Faculty Mentor Concert. Music concert with student and faculty.

May 18, 2018

"Black Holes" planetarium show starting at 8 p.m.

Remembering the Armenian Genocide

April 24 commemorates the Armenian genocide- when the Ottoman government imprisoned Armenians over 103 years ago.

SEBASTIAN MINO-
BUCHERI
STAFF WRITER

As the first World War broke out, the Ottoman Empire joined up the Central powers: Germany and the Austro-Hungarians against the Triple Entente: The Russian Empire, The French Third Republic, and The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

It was known that there were ethnic Armenians on both the Russian Empire and Ottoman Empire, volunteering to fight for their nation. The Ottoman Turks feared that the Ottoman Armenians would side with the Russian Empire for complete autonomy. Fighting for control in Caucasus, the Ottoman Empire suffered a humiliating defeat in the battle of Sarikamish by the Russian Empire.

In search for a scapegoat, the Minister of War Enver Pasha ordered Ottoman

Armenians to be disarmed and sent to manual labor at the frontlines for being "traitors". According to the New York Times, The Minister of Interior, Talaat Pasha then ordered the massacre of able-bodied Armenian males, while the remaining women, children, elderly, and the disabled were sent out on death marches across the Syrian desert.

From drowning, drug overdosing, and mass burnings of Armenians and other ethnic minorities, such as Assyrian and Greeks at 25 different Ottoman concentration camps, it is estimated that 1.5 million Armenians were killed between 1915 to 1923. However, there were many attempts by the Ottoman Armenians to rebel. In the Siege of Van, the Armenians were able to hold out against the Ottoman Empire until the Russian Empire was able to provide relief.

The genocide itself was

considered first in the modern world, in which the Ottoman Government - while fighting several war campaigns was also orchestrating systematic atrocities to its own people.

In 2018, only 29 countries have officially recognized the Armenian Genocide while Turkey continues to deny the word "genocide" and responsibility. Their reasoning is that the mass killings were committed by the Ottoman Empire which no longer exists and there were death tolls on both sides since the nation was fighting in World War I to disregard the disputed number of Armenian deaths.

"Today we commemorate the Meds Yeghern, one of the worst mass atrocities of the 20th century, when one and a half million Armenians were deported, massacred, or marched to their deaths in the final years of the Ottoman Empire," said President Trump in a released statement by the White House. "We recall the



FLICKR | DAVID STANLEY
YEREVAN, ARMENIA - The genocide memorial commemorates the 1.5 million ethnic Armenians who died between 1915-1923.

horrific events of 1915 and grieve for the lives lost and the many who suffered."

As for the United States, Turkey is an important ally for its resources and no president in present history has openly accused Turkey nor used the word "genocide" in the same

sentence.

President Theodore Roosevelt before his presidency ended in 1918 wrote in a letter, "the Armenian massacre was the greatest crime of the war, and the failure to act against Turkey to condone it."

Marvel's Avengers: Infinity War not over yet



PHOTO | COURTESY MARVEL STUDIOS
SUPPORT GROUP- Meetings are every second Saturday of the month.

After 10 years of build up, "Infinity War" succeeds on with an action-packed, emotional thrill ride.

GABRIEL ARIZON
STAFF WRITER

After 18 films and on its tenth anniversary, the Marvel Cinematic Universe brings out its most ambitious film to date-"Avengers: Infinity War." The film brings together the majority of Marvel's superheroes, setting them against their most powerful enemy yet, Thanos.

This huge undertaking, with so many characters in different places, could have easily been an incoherent mess. Fortunately, "Infinity War" mostly accomplishes what it sets out to do, and gives us a fun, yet emotional, thrill ride that will leave viewers wanting more.

"Infinity War" is directed by Anthony and Joe Russo who also directed "Captain America: The Winter Soldier" and "Captain America: Civil War," so they are familiar with working with an ensemble cast.

There are plenty of characters in this movie. Each one is given a chance to shine, though some get more attention than others.

There are numerous interactions between heroes, from Thor and Rocket Raccoon to Doctor Strange and Tony Stark. Though it would have

been good to have more, it would further extend the long run-time.

Bringing together so many heroes doesn't mean much if the villain threatening them is not something truly menacing and powerful. The opening scene shows just how ruthless Thanos is and establishes that no character is safe. He is dead set on gathering all six Infinity Stones and wiping out half of all life in the universe, and is willing to do anything to get his way. The film shows that there is more to him than mass murder, however.

The reasoning behind his actions is surprisingly understandable, albeit still deplorable. He even shows the capacity to love and grieve, and that he truly believes what he is doing is right. Thanos' methodical and ruthless nature mixed with a fairly soft side establish him as one of Marvel's better villains.

The same cannot be said for his minions, though. His four main henchmen, called the Children of Thanos, lean more toward forgettable. Only one is given much of anything in the way of character.

The clash between the heroes and Thanos' army gives the film plen-

ty of heart-pumping action scenes that make for an exhilarating experience. Though some CGI on Thanos' minions may not look all that great, the action scenes as a whole rank among some of the best in the franchise.

Although this film has lighthearted and fun moments, typical of a Marvel movie, it also has its emotional moments. We feel for these characters and what they go through, though the impact may depend on how much you connect with them. It all culminates into an ending that will get people talking and looking forward to the next Avengers movie.

The combinations of great action scenes, strong emotional beats, a great villain, and an ensemble of superheroes that viewers have come to love, give this film a sense of gravitas. Given the nature of superhero stories, the fates of certain characters are not set in stone. For now, the gloomy ending helps to elevate the film as a whole, finishing this phase of the franchise on a satisfying note.

"Infinity War" is assuredly one of Marvel's best.